

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the interview held on November 18, 2005. Amendments to the claims to expedite allowance were discussed.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 3 - 8, 12 and 13 to more clearly define the invention. Support for amended claim 1 can be found at page 6, lines 11 - 24 and figures 2 - 3. Support for amended claim 4 can be found at page 8 in Table 1 and figure 3b. Support for amended claim 12 can be found at page 8, lines 1 - 9 and figure 3A. Claims 3 and 5 - 8 have been amended to more clearly define the size of the microchannels, namely by removing the term "about" and providing numerical ranges. These amendments do not add new matter and their entry is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 9 – 11 and 18 – 46 have been canceled.

Applicants have added new claims 47 – 53.

Support for claim 47 can be found at page 6 lines 11 – 23 and figure 2. Support for claim 48 can be found at page 6, lines 22 – 30, page 7, lines 1 – 12 and page 9 lines 1 – 2. Support for new claim 49 can be found at page 6, lines 11 – 24, figures 2 – 3 and page 8 in Table 1.

Claims 50 – 51 and 53 are supported at page 15, lines 1 – 5 and original claim 17. Support for claim 52 can be found at page 7, lines 12 – 27 and figure 3A. As such, these amendments do not add new matter and their entry is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 – 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sutton et. al. and claims 1, 2, 5 – 15, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brody et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims to more distinctly claim the desired structure have obviated the rejection. Sutton is directed to an array where the transit of cells through the microchannels is desired, not the capture of the cells. Brody is similar to Sutton. Thus, the combination of the two does not result in a structure such as that claimed herein.

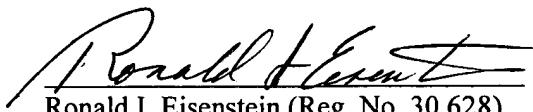
Accordingly, in view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

In view of the above and foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file are believed to be in condition for allowance, and prompt and favorable action is earnestly solicited. Should there be any question concerning this response or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge fee deficiencies or credit overpayments associated with this submission to the NIXON PEABODY LLP Deposit Account No. 50-0850.

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Respectfully submitted,



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